Launching of Business News Television Channel

39. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India's first 24 hour business news television channel will be launched by Asia Business News India next month as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 1st, December, 1995;

(b) if so, the time the news channel will devote on Indian besides Asian Business News/World Business News; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage such useful programmes in Hindi also so that all business in the country are equally benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The said news report has come to Governments attention.

(b) Government does not maintain such details about foreign channels.

(c) Doordarshan has been telecasting business programmes in Hindi for many years now.

देश में पर्यटक केन्द्र

2240. **श्री रामजी लाल:** क्या **नागर विमानन और पर्यटन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में इस समय कितने पर्यटक केन्द्र हैं तथा ऐसे केन्द्रों को और बढ़ाने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार, राज्यों को कितनी सहायता प्रदान कर रही है; और

(ख) सरकार हरियाणा में इस क्षेत्र के लिए कितनी सहायता देगी?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): (क) देश में पर्यटक केन्द्रों का विकास और पहचान करना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है और यह मुख्यतः राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की जिम्मेदारी है। गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान पर्यटक सुविधाओं के विकास के लिए राज्य सरकारों को 3583.91 लाख रुपए की राशि की केन्द्रीय वित्तीय सहायता मुहैया की गई थी।

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान हरियाणा राज्य को उस राज्य में पर्यटक सुविधाओं का विकास करने के लिए 505.71 लाख रुपए की राशि स्वीकृत की गई थी और उसमें से 139.20 लाख रुपए पहले ही दे दिए गए हैं। शेष राशि जब कभी राज्य सरकार द्वारा उपयोगिता प्रमाण-पत्र उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा तब दे दी जाएगी।

External Commercial Borrowing for Power Projects

2241. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding approval of External Commercial Borrowing for power projects;

(b) whether any internal limit has been earmarked for ECB for power sector; and

(c) the details of ECB proposals cleared during this year for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) In order to keep External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) within prudent limits of debt management, the Ministry of Finance has prescribed guidelines for ECB. These guidelines, inter alia, provide that ECB requirements for financing the immediate foreign currency capital expenditure would be met on priority basis, instead of earmarking ECB for projects, implementation of which is likely to be delayed for want of various clearances. While considering mega ECB proposals, Ministry of Finance ensures that the power projects have the following clearances:

(i) Environmental Clearance.

(ii) Approval of the Foreign Investment Board (if applicable).

(iii) Techno economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for power projects envisaging investment more than

Rs. 100 crores.

(iv) Power Purchase Argeement has been signed.

(b) On a request made by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance have agreed to accommodate ECB for almost 10,000 MW capacity.

(c) Ministry of Finance intimated that during the current financial year, upto 31.10.1995, ECB approvals aggregating to US $ 106.71 million have been given under the power sector, which are as under:

S. No.	Company	US $ Million
i.	Powergrid Corporation Ltd.	65.035
ii.	Green view Power Projects Ltd.	4.675
iii.	CESC Ltd.	37.000

Regulation on Cable TV Operations

2242. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cable Operators Federation of India has sought a better deal with regard to regulation of Cable TV operations under the newly enacted law;

(b) if so, the precise demands made by them; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the important suggestions made by the Federation are annexed as statement. (*See* below)

(c) The suggestions have been noted.

Statement

Important suggestions made by the Cable Operators Federation of India

(i) All big business houses should be licensed area wise to provide value added services like it has been done in the case of telecom services;

(ii) All small cable operators who were in existence before the last date of registration should be made responsible for final distribution of cable signals to households. They can do it independently or as franchisee of big houses depending upon the area;

(iii) To provide better services, registered cable operators should be given protection by police and other municipal agencies against cable cuttings, theft of signals by unscrupulous subscribers and non paying subscribers;

(iv) The influx of undesirable programmes and advertisements should be monitored by a central agency;

(v) Business houses engaged in print media should not be permitted to enter into this electronic media where they are in a position to manipulate the minds of general public, literate or illiterate;

(vi) Since Cable TV is a broadcast (rebroadcast) service, state governments should not have any control on it.

Rising interest rates

2243. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain suggestions that rising interest rates in the economy cannot be reduced unless Government's fiscal deficit is scaled down in a phased